



## **Legislative Testimony of the Connecticut Green Bank**

Environment Committee

February 27, 2023

### **House Bill 6664**

#### **AN ACT MANAGING WASTE AND CREATING A WASTE AUTHORITY.**

*As the nation's first green bank, the Connecticut Green Bank ("Green Bank") leverages the limited public resources it receives to attract multiples of private investment to scale up clean energy deployment. Since its inception, the Green Bank has mobilized \$2.26 billion of investment into Connecticut's clean energy economy at a 7 to 1 leverage ratio of private to public funds, supported the creation of 26,720 direct, indirect and induced jobs, reduced the energy burden on over 66,500 families and businesses, deployed over 509 MW of clean renewable energy, helped avoid 10.4 million tons of CO2 emissions over the life of the projects, and generated \$113.6 million in individual income, corporate, and sales tax revenues to the State of Connecticut.*

*The Green Bank was established pursuant to PA 11-80 and expanded pursuant to PA 21-115. The scope was expanded to include "environmental infrastructure," which includes: structures, facilities, systems, services and improvement projects related to (A) water, (B) waste and recycling, (C) climate adaptation and resiliency, (D) agriculture, (E) land conservation, (F) parks and recreation, and (G) environmental markets, including, but not limited to carbon offsets and ecosystem services.*

**Based on the Green Bank's reading of HB 6664, the legislation would:**

#### ***Prioritize Source Reduction, Reuse, Recycling and Composting***

- Developing an Extended Producer Responsibility for Packaging or EPR. This program would expand upon existing framework and be applied to packaging material and printed paper.
- Developing a PCR content standard for plastic beverage containers by implementing a 50% recycled content by 2033.
- Accelerating and expanding the Commercial Organics Recycling Law by adding schools, hospitals and correctional facilities and requiring all residents and businesses by 2028 have access to collection facilities.

## ***Waste Management***

- Eliminate the need to ship trash out of state by having DEEP coordinate with Connecticut's municipalities to solicit innovative proposals to promote self sufficiency and advancements.
- Create revenue for grants to municipalities for source separated food scrap collection programs and for revenue bonds to award improved waste collection infrastructure.
- Transition MIRA into the CT Waste Authority in order to address the redevelopment of current MIRA assets and facilitate the marketing and sale of real and personal property currently overseen by MIRA.

## ***Support / Suggestions***

With the closing of the waste-to-energy facility in Hartford, the level of municipal solid waste being shipped to other states for disposal (the state's "self-sufficiency deficit") has doubled, representing an unsustainable future for managing the state's waste and exposing the state's residents and businesses to steep disposal costs as capacity in these other states diminishes over time.

Reversing this trend would not only mitigate costs to residents and businesses but would also improve our environment. Achieving this will not only require changes to waste management policy (such as represented by HB 6664), but will also entail considerable capital investment, such as additional facilities to manage and process food scraps and other organic waste streams as well as the entire supply chain and infrastructure to facilitate the collection and separation of organics.

As a result of the passage of PA 21-115 which expanded the scope of the Green Bank beyond "clean energy" to include "environmental infrastructure," the financing tools of the Green Bank, including the Green Bank's \$250,000,000 bonding capacity through the Special Capital Reserve Fund, can be used to mobilize private investment for Connecticut's sustainable waste economy. Raising capital for waste infrastructure through the issuance of Green Liberty Bonds (which the Green Bank successfully issued in 2020 and 2021), accessing federal resources (e.g., the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act), and/or other means, will provide resources to invest in the modernization, decarbonization, and resilience of the state's waste infrastructure.

The Green Bank defers to the legislature on changes to the solid waste assessment fees, but stresses the need for such fees to be "ring fenced" for the state's waste programs in a way that gives the capital markets confidence that such fees will not be appropriated for other general fund purposes. Securely protecting assessment fees would enable bonds to be issued to finance the infrastructure build-out referenced above.

The Green Bank supports Connecticut's continued bipartisan efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while building the green economy of the state. Questions on this document may be submitted to James Desantos, Legislative Liaison and Associate Director of Regulatory Policy, reachable at [james.desantos@ctgreenbank.com](mailto:james.desantos@ctgreenbank.com) or at (860) 299-3911.

**Connecticut Green Bank is  
the nation's first green bank.**

Our mission is to confront climate change by increasing and accelerating investment into Connecticut's green economy to create more resilient, healthier, and equitable communities. Established in 2011 as a quasi-public agency, the Green Bank uses limited public dollars to attract private capital investment and offers green solutions that help people, businesses and all of Connecticut thrive.

## our solutions

The Green Bank is helping Connecticut flourish by offering green solutions for homes and buildings, and by creating innovative ways to invest in the green economy.

### home solutions

Empowering all Connecticut families and households with accessible and affordable green solutions that bring them comfort and security. Find incentives for battery storage or use the Green Bank's flexible financing to reduce costs with health and safety improvements and the newest energy efficient technologies.



### building solutions

Creating stronger, more resilient buildings with green solutions for all types of buildings – from businesses and nonprofits to multifamily housing. Leverage Green Bank financing to go solar or retrofit your building with efficiency and resiliency measures, while saving money and realizing the benefits of more modern, sustainable buildings.



### investment solutions

Securing a healthier planet with smart ways for individuals and businesses to invest in green solutions – and our future – while also earning a return. Energize the green economy by investing in it today. Buy a Green Liberty Bond, invest through a crowdfunding offering, or join the movement by finding other ways to invest.



### community solutions

Helping Connecticut thrive and creating stronger towns and cities by offering green solutions for all. From solutions for local and state government properties, to providing support for community leaders in outreach to local businesses and community members – especially the most vulnerable – helping them to access green energy and achieve a more prosperous future.



# Societal Impact Report

FY12  
FY22

Since the Connecticut Green Bank's inception through the bipartisan legislation in July 2011, we have mobilized more than **\$2.26 billion of investment** into the State's green economy. To do this, we used **\$322.4 million** in Green Bank dollars to attract \$1.95 billion in private investment, a leverage ratio of **\$7.00 for every \$1**. The impact of our deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency to families, businesses, and our communities is shown in terms of economic development, environmental protection, equity, and energy (data from FY 2012 through FY 2022).

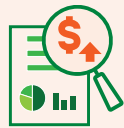
## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**JOBS** The Green Bank has supported the creation of more than **26,720** direct, indirect, and induced job-years.



### TAX REVENUES

The Green Bank's activities have helped generate an estimated **\$113.6 million** in state tax revenues.

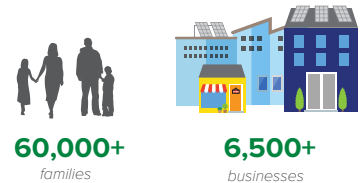


**\$55.3 million**  
individual income tax  
**\$29.2 million**  
corporate taxes  
**\$29.1 million**  
sales taxes

## ENERGY

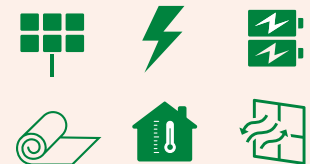
### ENERGY BURDEN

The Green Bank has reduced the energy costs on families, businesses, and our communities.



### DEPLOYMENT

The Green Bank has accelerated the growth of renewable energy to more than **509 MW** and lifetime savings of over **65.6 million MMBTUs** through energy efficiency projects.



## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

**POLLUTION** The Green Bank has helped reduce air emissions that cause climate change and worsen public health, including **9.6 million pounds** of SOx and **11.1 million pounds** of NOx lifetime.



**10.4 MILLION**  
tons of CO<sub>2</sub> :  
**EQUALS**

**156 MILLION**  
tree seedlings  
grown for 10 years

OR

**2.1 MILLION**  
passenger vehicles  
driven for one year

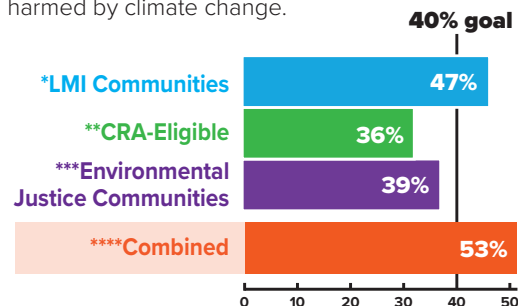
**PUBLIC HEALTH** The Green Bank has improved the lives of families, helping them avoid sick days, hospital visits, and even death.

**\$317.1 – \$717.2 million of lifetime public health value created**



## EQUITY

**INVESTING** in vulnerable communities, The Green Bank has set **goals** to reach **40% investment** in communities that may be disproportionately harmed by climate change.



\*LMI Communities – census tracts where households are at or below 100% Area Median Income.

\*\*Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) Eligible – households at or below 80% of Area Median Income and all projects in programs designed to assist LMI customers.

\*\*\*Environmental Justice Community means a municipality that has been designated as distressed by Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) or a census block group for which 30% or more of the population have an income below 200% of the federal poverty level.

\*\*\*\*Combined Vulnerable Communities include LMI, CRA and EJC.



Learn more by visiting [ctgreenbank.com/strategy-impact/impact](http://ctgreenbank.com/strategy-impact/impact)

Winner of the 2017 Harvard Kennedy School Ash Center Award for Innovation in American Government, the Connecticut Green Bank is the nation's first green bank.

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Sources: Connecticut Green Bank Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports